

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals/investigation plans are evaluated using the following criteria:

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Projects should be responsive to issues and information needs identified within the Regional Advisory Council process (see *Issues and Information Needs Federal Subsistence Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program*). Proposals should address the following and must meet the first criteria to be eligible for federal subsistence funding.

1. **Federal Jurisdiction** – Issue or information needs addressed in projects must have a direct association to a subsistence fishery within a federal conservation unit as defined in legislation, regulation and plans.
2. **Conservation Mandate** – Risk to the conservation of species and populations that support subsistence fisheries, and risk to conservation unit purposes as defined in legislation, regulation and plans.
3. **Allocation Priority** – Risk of failure to provide a priority to subsistence uses, and risk that subsistence harvest needs will not be met.
4. **Data Gaps** – Amount of information available to support subsistence management (higher priority given where a lack of information exists).
5. **Role of Resource** – Contribution of a species to a subsistence harvest (e.g., number of villages affected, pounds of fish harvested, miles of river) and qualitative significance (e.g., cultural value, unique seasonal role).
6. **Local Concern** – Level of user concerns over subsistence harvests (e.g., upstream vs. downstream allocation, effects of recreational use, changes in fish abundance and population characteristics).

TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC MERIT

The project must meet accepted standards for design, information collection, compilation, analysis, and reporting. Projects should have clear study objectives, an appropriate sampling design, correct statistical analysis procedures, a realistic schedule and budget, and appropriate products, including written reports. Projects must not duplicate work already being done.

PAST PERFORMANCE-ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTISE

Investigators and their organizations must have the technical and administrative expertise to successfully complete the project, or have co-investigators or appropriate partnerships with other organizations to meet all requirements of the project.

PARTNERSHIP-CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is a priority for the Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Investigators are requested to include a strategy for integrating local capacity development in their investigation plans. Investigators must complete appropriate consultations with local villages and communities in the area where the project is to be conducted. Letters of support from local organizations add to the strength of a proposal. Investigators and their organizations should demonstrate their ability to maintain effective local relationships and commitment to capacity building.